



GREAT SALT LAKE – WHAT'S IT WORTH?

IN THE NEWS

“Plumped up Great Salt Lake will get even more water.”

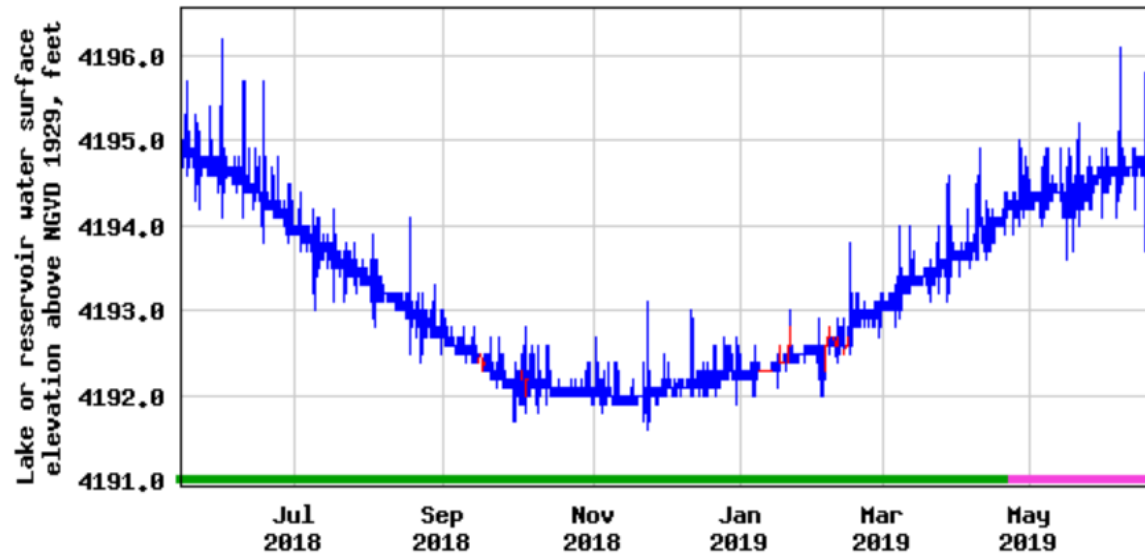
Deseret News, June 6, 2019

“The Great Salt Lake is becoming ‘greater’ than it's been in a while.” – Fox 13 Now, June 10, 2019

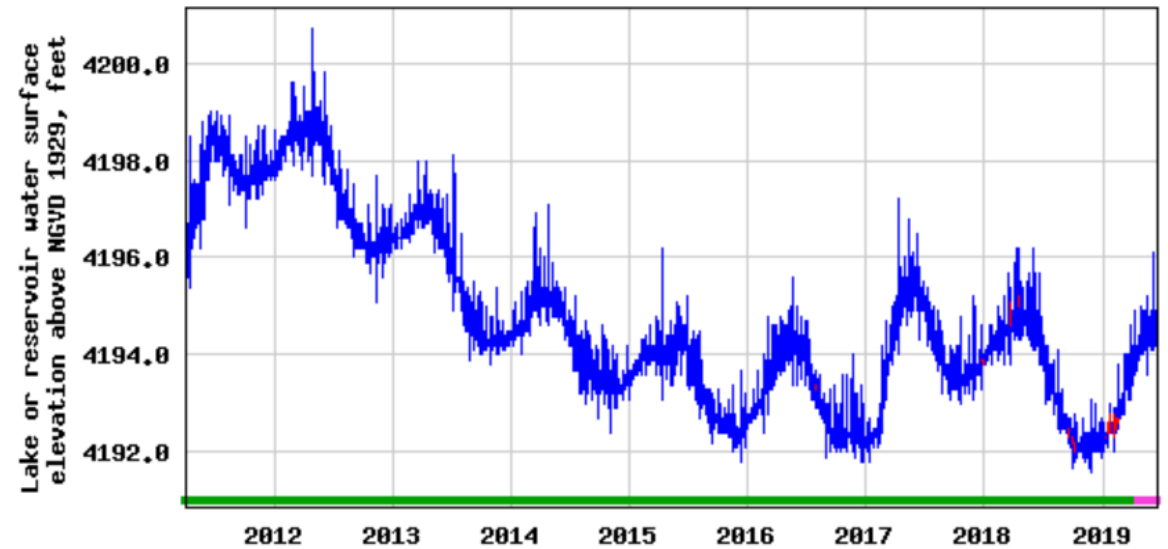
“Water managers say levels are high all over the state.” KSL NewsRadio, Jun 11, 2019

REALITY CHECK

USGS 10010000 GREAT SALT LAKE AT SALTAIR BOAT HARBOR, UT



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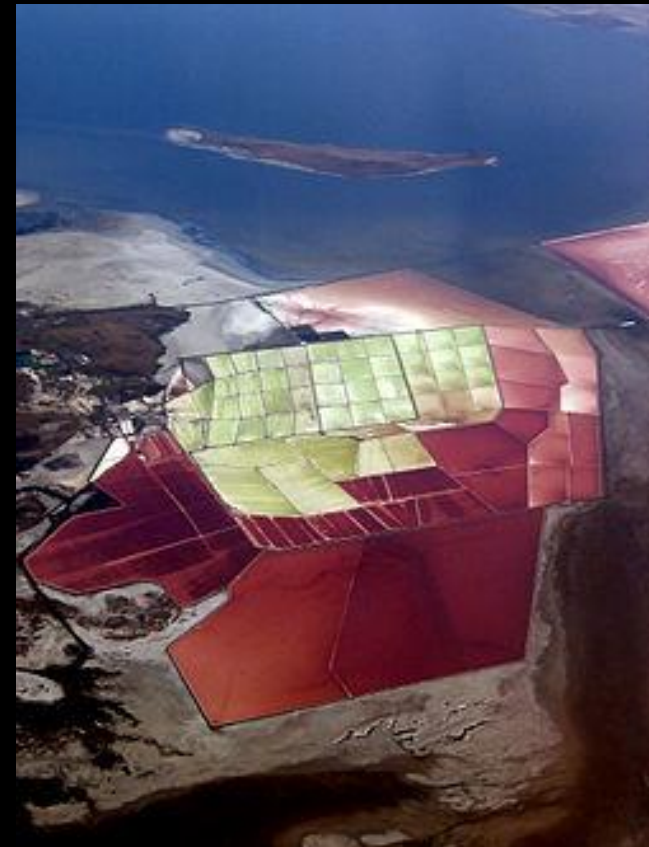
“Nothing more than a **giant stinky mud hole** ... [I]t can go away and we'd all be fine.”



WHAT'S IN COMMON?



MINERAL EXTRACTION = \$1.13 BILLION



MINERALS PRODUCED

Current

- Magnesium
- Salt (table salt, road salt)
- Potassium (sulfate of potash)
- Trace minerals (supplements)

Historic

- Titanium
- Lithium



BRINE SHRIMP INDUSTRY = \$57 MILLION

BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS, ECUADOR, MEXICO, INDONESIA, THAILAND, VIETNAM, INDIA



TOURISM = \$136 MILLION

HUNTING, BIRDWATCHING, BOATING, HIKING



LABOR INCOME = \$375 MILLION
TOTAL JOBS = 7,706
WEBER, TOOELE, BOX ELDER COUNTIES



AVOIDED COST (SEWER
TREATMENT) = \$10-60 MILLION



OTHER AVOIDED COSTS

- Dust
 - Human Health
 - Air Traffic
 - Crop Impacts
 - Property Values
- Lake Effect Snow (5-14%) + albedo effect losses
- Temperature Moderation



OWENS LAKE - MITIGATION COSTS

NOTE: 1/20TH THE SIZE OF GREAT SALT LAKE

- \$2.1 BILLION (June 2018); est. \$3.6 Billion by 2025
- \$75 million/year simply to maintain.
- Roughly 1/3 of a person's water bill in L.A.



MONETARY TERMS

- Salton Sea – Lost Property Values (est. \$7 billion); restoration costs of up to \$17 billion
- Owens Lake – Dust Mitigation (\$3.6 billion by 2025)
- Lake Urmia – Habitat Restoration (\$1.4 billion for partial)
- Aral Sea – Habitat Restoration (\$270 million for 1/10th the volume)
- Dead Sea – Habitat and Tourism (\$11 billion)

Basically, a whole lotta

for partial solutions (at best).

FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION

Do we invest now to preserve Great Salt Lake or do we pay a lot more later to try to mitigate the impacts associated with its degradation or loss?

